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OBSERVATIONS.

The unanimous choice of Mr. H. W. Brown and Mr. J. C. Harpham by all the republican clubs in the city for excisemen is commended by all republicans whose opinions have reached the party organs published in this city. Mr. H. W. Brown is one of the old residents of Lincoln. His reputation for fair dealing and justice is established by twenty years of commerce with the citizens. A more admirable type of a good citizen does not exist. Mr. Harpham's nomination is equally justifiable.

The decision in the Bartley case is in accordance with justice and in spite of a foolish and inconsistent law which says that the state shall receive interest and yet run no risks. All the risks to be assumed by friends of the treasurer who receive no compensating or corresponding recompense. The people of Nebraska elected a man to be their treasurer. When he fails to account for what he has received, the people of Nebraska must pay for their lack of judgment in not selecting and electing an honest man. The bond signers took Nebraska's word that the man was worthy, and Nebraska is alone responsible for her poor judgment.

It is hoped that Mayor Graham will decide to follow the example set by Exciseman Vail and resign, before the impeachment proceedings begin. He would thus prevent official confirma-

tion of the ugly rumors which have discoloured his reputation. But however much the element of the republican party which has recently asserted its control, may hope and advise such a withdrawal, there is little cause for such a hope based on the mayor's character. He has shown absolute indifference to public opinion and there is reason to believe that he is relying upon the loyalty of certain councilmen, and the difficulty of establishing official misdemeanor to carry him through what even his honor will admit is a very tight place.

The city council is apparently resting until the mayor is either retired or his "honor" washed clean of the stains which the *Call* says have been made by office-desiring politicians who have designs on the mayor's office. The regular meeting on Monday night was enlivened by two specialties introduced by Mr. Woodward and Mr. Hammond. The latter, several years ago, was paid eight hundred dollars by the city as damages, with the agreement on Mr. Hammond's part that he lower the sidewalk in front of his property to correspond with the street grade. The chairman of the sidewalk committee intimated that instead of applying the money to the stipulated use, Mr. Hammond had put it into something which returns a more usurious rate of interest than sidewalks. Mr. Hammond naively retorted that he had loaned the money at 7 per cent, which was probably less than his accuser's rate. But the council ordered Messrs. Hammond and Paine to bring their walks to grade. After a discussion about changing the location of a street light the general managers of the city adjourned for another week.

The fighting that the Irish Catholics did in the war of the rebellion has been often urged. In reply to this plea of Irish willingness to fight for the union it has been said that considering the whole number of soldiers engaged in fighting on the union side, the proportion of Irishmen to native soldiers was infinitesimally small. But, considered in proportion to the Irish citizens of this country at that time, they made a record not to be ashamed of. And the quality of an Irishman's fighting is so fiercely joyful and so persistent, that the quality is unexceptionable. The priest in Rondout, New York, who is said to have advised his congregation, in case of war with Spain, not to take arms against a Catholic nation, is probably misquoted. In either case there is not much cause for alarm. If

there is a fight the Irish will be in it. This is one of the indisputable truths of modern history, and no priestly exhortation will keep them out of it. And as the Irishman's sweethearts and wives and children are in America, it is sure that he will fight for them till his home-loving heart stops beating. It is considered good politics and consistent Christianity by some men and newspapers to get up a periodical scare at the Catholics and the pope of Rome and their designs on the United States. The one being suspected of a design to crush the public schools of this country and to acquire the power to make it illegal for Protestants to assemble to worship God, while the Pope of Rome is accused of wishing to leave the beautiful gardens and the wonderful vatican, to settle in Chicago or St. Louis. There are many who believe that Pope Leo is scheming to get a residence here, to subvert the constitution and to establish a theocracy in this country. The scheme includes both North and South America and the idea is to create a Catholic kingdom on this side of the water, unapproachable by the warring protestant powers of Europe. It is a larger dream of conquest than Napoleon dared, but its absurdity does not daunt the real Catholic scare-crow builder, who refuses to be convinced by the sight of the patient, peaceful priests who confine their attention to the needs of their own parish, who are stirred to fervent patriotism by any attack on the American flag, and who, I doubt not, will be the first to volunteer as chaplains when Johnny goes marching off.

The *Daily News* of London says, in speaking of Spain, that she "can expect no support, moral or otherwise, from England against the United States. She has ruined Cuba, as she has ruined or lost every other colony, by the grossest corruption, cruelty and maladministration, and she must be left to settle the account for it with those whom it may concern without any aid or sympathy on our part."

The ability to colonize is the last test of the vitality of a nation. French, Spanish, Italian, even German colonization is a failure, broadly considered. The Italians during the Roman Empire settled in Africa, Asia Minor, Asia and around all the shores of the Mediterranean. But they were citizens of Rome, not of the small states they were numerically strong enough to have formed. They were a part of the periphery of the circle whose centre was Rome. But the English who have colonized the world, understand that

every community should be self-governing. America is a gigantic development of the colonizing nation-making idea. In Australia the tendency is towards centralizing the government in their own continent instead of in London. In Ireland, India, Africa, and all of the English colonial dependencies, the principle of self-government is developing so rapidly that it is only a question of time when English stock will insist on being free and independent. The Spanish colonies are, and always have been, plundered by appointees of the home government. It is only because the Spanish settlers are an unconscionable time in learning the English rights of man that the numerous revolutions have not completely severed Cuba from Spain. Spain has no scientific right to survival. She is an anachronism, and in a war with the United States she will attract no more international sympathy than a pirate ship would.

Edward W. Bok in *The Ladies Home Journal* discusses the Sunday School and says what many people have thought for a long time as to the tiresome and inadequate nature of the Sunday school. The writer says he has examined over two hundred Sunday schools and finds that their strength is on the wane, attendance on the decrease, and the interest of those who do attend lukewarm. "It is a common experience of the parents to have their girls and boys beg off from going." "For the most part the average Sunday school is in a state of mouldering decay." Mr. Bok thinks that the fault is in selecting any old thing for a superintendent; a man who has been a failure in everything secular being quite as apt to be selected for superintendent as one who has succeeded by energy and fertile resources in making his own business pay. What he says of such a man is worth quoting:

"And here is one of the fundamental causes of the present decay of the Sunday school. I have in mind not less than twelve different men who are acting as superintendents of our Sunday schools. Not one of these men has even a suggestion of force; not a spark of personal magnetism, not a personal possession which goes to draw children to him or to the school over which he presides. In five of these cases the men have been failures in business; by men in the outer world they are passed over, and yet the church places them in positions which call preeminently for every element which they so distinctly lack. The superintendent of a Sunday school strikes just exactly the same keynote for success or failure to every teacher or scholar in it, as does the head of a commercial establishment to every

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